

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 68**  
**INCIDENT NO. 97-015**  
**DATE: October 9, 1997      TIME: 3:00 p.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: As winter approaches, outreach workers for the N.D. Department of Human Services Crisis Counseling Program are finding an increased level of anxiety among flood survivors. Families are experiencing more strife, and some children are avoiding school. Flood survivors say they feel as if they are in limbo until civic leaders make decisions related to property acquisitions and floodplain management. They have also expressed concern about the potential for flooding next spring and their community's level of preparedness for such a possibility.

The level of Devils Lake at Creel Bay has dropped .06 feet since last week to 1442.42 feet MSL on October 9.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The North Dakota Community Foundation recently approved \$1.29 million in grants for Red River Valley agencies, organizations and governmental entities that suffered damages during the flood.

The North Dakota Community Foundation received \$72,675 from The Forum of Fargo, the newspaper's proceeds from the Flood Aid Concert headlined by country western singer Travis Tritt.

The residents of Reading, Pa., recently sent 2,500 winter coats to Grand Forks residents. They also donated \$4,500 for hats, gloves, snow pants and other cold-weather gear. The effort was organized by the Reading Eagle, the town's newspaper.

MAJOR ACTIONS: In preparation for winter, manufactured homes furnished by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are being winterized. The use of travel trailers for temporary housing is being discontinued. Grand Forks area residents living in travel trailers are either moving back into homes they have repaired or into manufactured homes. Approximately 142 travel trailers are in use; FEMA plans to discontinue their use by October 15 because the travel trailers are not adequate for winter living. Disaster workers are visiting travel trailer residents to help them with their housing plans. A contracting company has been hired to winterize the manufactured homes. Tasks include insulating skirting on homes and hot water heaters, as needed, sealing windows, and weatherizing exterior doors. Of the 311 manufactured homes, 242 are

occupied. Industrial Park has 198 homes, and Princeton Park has 36 homes. The remaining homes are located throughout the Red River Valley, from the Canadian border to the South Dakota line.

Home repair grants for damages associated with FEMA-1174-DR-ND are 50 percent above the national average, according to FEMA Disaster Housing Program officials. The average national grant is \$2,000 compared to \$3,300 for this disaster. To date, 24,447 eligible applicants have received more than \$53 million in minimal repair, transient assistance and rental assistance grants.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) expects to loan \$175 million to North Dakota businesses and residents, \$8 million over original estimates. To date, the SBA has approved \$173.2 million in low-interest loans for businesses and individuals. A total of \$96.2 million has been approved for homeowners sustaining property damages, \$49.4 million for businesses sustaining property damages, and \$27.5 million for businesses suffering economic injury. Although the personal property loan application period ended August 6, the application period for economic injury (working capital) loans remains open until January 7, 1998. As of October 9, the SBA had received 11,613 applications, 6,812 of which have been approved. The processing of applications is nearing completion; approximately 75 applications are currently under review. The SBA has reduced its staff for FEMA 1174 DR ND from 147 to 11, including two who are assigned to the Bismarck Disaster Field Office (DFO) and nine who work in the Grand Forks satellite DFO. Of the remaining employees, seven are North Dakota residents.

Anticipated costs for the Individual and Family Grant Program (IFG) fell below projected estimates of \$25 million to \$15 million, in part, because of increased Disaster Housing minimal repair grants and SBA loans. The IFG Program, administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, has thus far awarded \$13.4 million in grants to flood survivors. The average grant is \$1,312. The program, at its peak, had employed 30 applicant processors and five clerical staff members. Staff has since been reduced to five applicant processors and one clerical staff member, who are processing remaining and new applications. The staff has closed 22,864 cases, which represents 99 percent of the cases.

North Dakota Emergency Management is conducting a risk assessment of selected areas in North Dakota in order to assist local authorities to identify and implement mitigation measures for a possible 1998 flood event.

The N.D. National Guard continues to assist with flood recovery efforts. Guard members are providing a kitchen facility at the National Guard Armory for the Grand Forks Gospel Mission. The mission's facility was damaged during the flood and is under repair. The National Guard is also winterizing and storing 500 travel trailers. The title for the travel trailers will be transferred to the State of North Dakota for control and disposition. National Guard crews are also applying a "binding agent" to control dust problems on the Woods-Rutten Road. The binding agent, provided by the N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT), helps solidify the dust and should control further deterioration of the roadway.

Outreach workers for the Crisis Counseling Program are working with students and staff at schools affected by the spring flood. They also conducted 80 block parties in Grand Forks area neighborhoods. Twenty of the parties included programs specifically for children.

As of October 9, the Public Assistance staff had received 3,445 Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) for the 440 applicants for the 1997 flood. More than \$101.7 million in infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal has been determined to be eligible thus far in the declared counties.

As of October 9, Job Service North Dakota has paid more than \$4.54 million in Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). The agency has received 8,306 DUA applications.

The North Dakota Rural Survival Task Force is sponsoring Val Farmer, Ph.D., a leading expert in helping communities and families deal with the stresses of rural life and its responsibilities. A series of free workshops is planned for ten locations throughout rural North Dakota in October and

November. The workshops are being presented in response to the needs and concerns heard by caring agencies that work with rural individuals, families, agencies and communities.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Other web site addresses for flood recovery information include:

N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>  
N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>  
N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>  
N.D. Attorney General Office: <http://www.state.nd.us/ndag>  
N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>  
U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/index.html>

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director